



International Human Rights Instruments

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PREPARATION OF THE INITIAL PARTS OF STATE PARTY REPORTS ("CORE DOCUMENTS") UNDER THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Note by the Secretary-General

1. Each of the bodies established under the various human rights instruments to monitor State party compliance with treaty obligations has adopted guidelines concerning the form and content of State party reports. Since a large number of States are parties to several human rights instruments, it has been an added burden for them to provide certain information of a general character to the various treaty bodies in the form requested by each of them. The General Assembly has repeatedly urged that the reporting burdens of States parties, and duplication, be reduced as much as possible.
2. With a view to facilitating the implementation of reporting obligations by States parties, and with the agreement of all of the treaty bodies, the guidelines of the various treaty bodies relating to the part of States reports containing general information were consolidated into a single text (attached hereto). By a note verbale dated 26 April 1991, the Secretary-General transmitted the guidelines, calling for the preparation and submission of a "core document", to all States that were parties to one or more international human rights instruments. They will also be transmitted to new States parties.
3. The "core documents" received from States parties will be distributed to each of the treaty bodies, together with the substantive report of the concerned State party, when future reports from that State party are to be considered. The "core document" will be updated periodically by the Secretariat as needed, based upon information that may be received from States parties from time to time.
4. Core documents will be issued as addenda to this document.
